

# The Word Slinger

The Writing Center Newsletter

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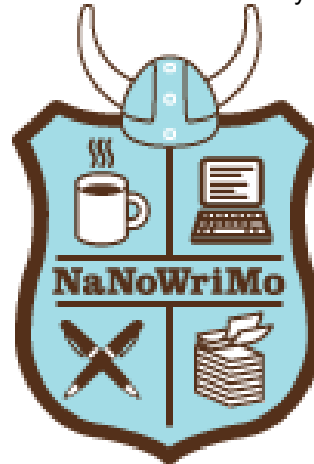
## What the heck is NaNoWriMo?

National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo if you're not scared of the acronym, is a month of support and motivation for anybody that's ever wanted to write a novel. Ideally, participants will complete a 50,000 word novel by the end of the month. After all, don't we need a deadline to get anything done sometimes?

This celebratory challenge was brought to life in 1999 by some likeminded writers in the San Francisco Bay area who wanted to take on the challenge. Since then, the movement has grown exponentially to over 250,000 participants just last year.

Okay, breathe; you can do this. Nobody's expecting a finished product to your writing (if

such a thing even exists); it's about getting as many words down as you possibly can. As stated on the NaNoWriMo website, "It's all about quantity, not quality. This approach forces you to lower your expectations, take risks, and write on the fly."



"Make no mistake: You will be writing a lot of crap," the website elaborates. "And that's a

good thing. By forcing yourself to write so intensely, you are giving yourself permission to make mistakes."

Understandably, 50,000 is a scary number—whether it be counting words or spiders—it gets the heart racing. However, on NaNoWriMo.org, writers can register to keep track of their word count along with other supporting writers doing the same thing.

So what kind of month will November be for you? Will you push your ideas off to the side for when you have "more free time" to write that novel you've been talking about? Or will you take on the challenge and leave November with your ideas brought to life?

## Ones and zeros

If you don't already know, the Rowan Writing Center is online. We've been amping up our online presence with a newly active Facebook page and Twitter account.

Our Facebook page, titled Rowan University Writing Center, is where you can keep up with happenings at the

Writing Center, share with your friends, or communicate with us in a social environment.

If you still want more, follow us on Twitter @ruwc. We're constantly posing fun and interesting articles, quotes, and information about what's going on at the Writing Center.



## Get to know a tutor: Megan Reese

**“It’s about giving them the tools they need to [write] and letting them know that making mistakes is okay.”**

-Megan Reese on tutoring writing

### Random Quote

*“A writer is somebody for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.”*

-Thomas Mann

Megan Reese doesn’t seem intimidating from a distance, but don’t let that fool you; this Writing Center veteran is a force to be reckoned with. Her students wouldn’t dare question her no-b-s style of tutoring and neither would any of her fellow tutors.

As tough as Megan may be, there is also valor to the grit of this senior English and Education major. With her tough hand comes an unrelenting sympathy for the freaks, geeks, and misunderstood and especially all the students she tutors.

“Most of my students, the ICC students in particular, struggle with writing because they’ve never been told they are good at it, so they gave up, they stopped trying, and they fell behind.”

This is where Megan’s tough teaching style and sympathetic approach come together. Avid and determined, she refuses to let them give up on themselves.

“It’s about giving them the tools they need to [write] and letting them know that making mistakes is okay. Once they understand that no one is perfect in their writing, they start to grow and develop better writing skills.”

When she graduates, Megan wants to teach middle school so that she can help students



through what she calls “the roughest part of their life.”

“In middle school, you’re either a bully or being bullied,” she says with a wise understanding. “That’s why I want to teach middle school—not just for the kids being bullied, but also for the bullies—both sides are struggling with something personal and need to know someone is there to listen and help them through it.”

This understanding of what it takes to succeed guides Megan’s tutoring philosophy. She is an empathetic but tough tutor who helps students gain confidence about their college writing.

Megan’s experience with tutoring and her ability to understand students’

**“Megan is a great tutor—a real asset to the Writing Center”**

- Sharada Krishnamurthy,  
Writing Center Director

struggles in school will serve her well in her future as a teacher.

“Megan is a great tutor—a real asset to the Writing Center,” says Sharada Krishnamurthy, the Director of the Writing Center. “I have no doubt that she will be a great middle school teacher.”

You can check Megan’s availability for a tutoring session at [Rowan.MyWCOnline.com](http://Rowan.MyWCOnline.com).

## National Day on Writing

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Writing Center was flipped upside down for its annual celebration of The National Day on Writing.

Of all of the activities, the card making station seemed to be the most popular. Here, participants would make cards for terminally ill children using a large assortment of craft supplies.

On the other side of the room, people were making some pretty cool collage poetry from magazine and newspaper clippings. What resulted

from all of this was some weirdly awesome stuff!

Sharada Krishnamurthy, Writing Center Director, couldn't have been happier about the event.

"The National Day on Writing," states Sharada, "was a great way for the Writing Center to get Rowan students involved in celebrating writing in fun, creative ways."

By the end of the day, word games were played, food was eaten, and the Writing Center—covered in debris of paper

clippings and half-eaten cookies—looked like a happy mess—exactly as planned. Until next year, Rowan!



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Sharada Krishnamurthy,  
Writing Center Director

## The Writing Center is coming to you!

Be honest for a second. Have you ever been to the Writing Center? And if not, why? Was it because you didn't know anyone? Maybe it was because you thought that a bunch of writing students in the library couldn't possibly help you with your engineering paper.

This year, the Writing Center is coming for you—in a very good, nonthreatening way of course. The Class Tutor program, in its pilot year, aims to reach out to students by embedding Writing Center tutors in the classroom.

Our hope is that this program will motivate students to use the Writing Center.

First of all, the

tutor will be attending his or her assigned class one to two times a week. This will assure students that the tutor will be knowledgeable about the subject matter of the class.

Second, students in the class will become acquainted with the tutor, so there will be no reason to feel nervous about scheduling an appointment with him or her when needed.

This effort by the Writing Center is part of outreach efforts to students of Rowan who may not know how helpful the Writing Center can be.

Still, some students may remain skeptical. Oftentimes,

students' main reason for not going to the Writing Center is that they think they don't need any help whatsoever. However, any experienced writer will tell you that revising your work will only be to your advantage—regardless of what field you are working in.

No matter how you look at it, there is no reason not to get help with your writing. You have to do it anyway, so why not make your next paper as good as it can possibly be?

To schedule an appointment at the Writing Center, go to [Rowan.MyWCOnline.com](http://Rowan.MyWCOnline.com). Walk-ins are also welcome.

### Random Quote

*"I am never going to have anything more to do with politics or politicians. When this war is over I shall confine myself entirely to writing and painting."*

Winston Churchill